

Message Text

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61

ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 (ISO) R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:PMAYHEW:CHG
APPROVED BY EA/K - MR O'DONOHUE
L - MR FELDMAN
S/S -O:PSHANKLE

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O 220200Z MAY 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 119478

STADIS/////////
EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, KS

SUBJECT: POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS BY US COMPANIES IN KOREA

1. IN ORDER TO ANSWER QUERY FROM STAFF OF SFRC (CHURCH)
SUBCOMMITTEE ON MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS, NEED TO
KNOW IF EMBASSY AWARE OF ANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO KOREAN
POLITICAL PARTIES BY US FIRMS DOING BUSINESS IN KOREA
OR BY US/KOREAN JOINT VENTURE COMPANIES OTHER THAN
GULF. WE HAVE BEEN SPECIFICALLY QUERIED ON CALTEX,
UNION AND SKELLY OIL.

2. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN QUERIED ON GENERAL MOTORS CONTRI-
BUTIONS TO ROKG NATIONAL SELF DEFENSE FUND AND WOULD
APPRECIATE RUNDOWN ON FUND. OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT
THESE ARE QUOTE VOLUNTARY UNQUOTE, PUBLIC DONATIONS
BY KOREAN REGISTERED FIRMS AND, WHILE PECULIAR TO
KOREA, WOULD NOT BE REGARDED AS ILLEGAL.

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